

Evaluation of Tribal Food Security in Mysuru District-Karnataka

Akash Raj D P¹, Mahesh T M²

¹Research Scholar, ²Professor,
Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore, Mysuru, Karnataka, India.

Corresponding Author: Akash Raj D P

ABSTRACT

The paper was aimed to assess the food experience and food security in tribal areas of Mysuru district. Three taluks of the Mysuru district were selected for the study; H D Kote, Periyapatna and Hunsur. Primary survey of 500 households was carried with the set of different questions such as: a) household cannot afford balanced meals, b) food purchased does not last and no money for more food, c) household cuts meal size, d) household skips meal and e) one or more family members remain hungry all the day or night. Food security was assessed by set of questions like; a) Entitlement provided by FPS is enough or not; b) only a single meal in a day; c) households eat meals without vegetable, d) cereals, pulses and vegetables are not always available, e) members get less than the amount satisfying hunger. The survey revealed that 64.8% households often do not afford balanced meals; 53.6% of the households do not have money for more food to purchase and the purchased food does not last long; 70% of the population cuts meal size, 51% population skip meals and the 44% of the families have members hungry all day or night. The survey revealed that selected tribes experience inadequate food in their day to day life and hence causes severe food insecurity.

Key words: Food insecurity, Tribes, Mysuru, food experience, Karnataka.

INTRODUCTION

Food is basic need for survival of any organism on earth and sufficient food is necessary to lead a healthy life. Food security is an important means to realize the right to food (Bhagat et al., 2010), which means the access to sufficient food to all persons of the household throughout the year. Government of India has been taking several initiatives to guarantee the food security of population through several schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme; and distribution of entitlements for reasonable price or free of cost. Generally these developmental schemes do

not reach tribe population as they live isolated in few numbers. In India food security is mainly focused on distribution of food grains through the public distribution system (Nair K T, 2008). As per the socio economic status of population living in the country, tribes are more vulnerable who live in poverty with higher malnutrition (Sinha, A K, 2014), the expenditure and living standard are poor than general population (Kijima Y, 2006), higher illiteracy, lack of awareness about the welfare schemes, poor health status and poor sanitation are common among the tribe community (Mishra M, 2012). Hence the present study was taken up as it would help to understand

the weaker section of the society and the status of their livelihood.

STUDY AREA

The study area lies in southern part of Karnataka between 11° 44' 12.81" N and 12° 39' 15.47" N latitude; and between 77° 8' 6.94" E and 75° 54' 34.26" E longitude. The area extension is 6,307 Sq.km. which

consists of seven taluks such as Periyapatna, Heggadadevana Kote, Nanjangud, Hunsur, Tirumakudal Narsipur, Krishnarajanagara and Mysore. As per the Census of India 2011, the district ranks in 3rd place in total population, 2nd in density of population. Among the total population of district scheduled caste comprises of 17.9 percent and scheduled tribe consists of 11.1 percent.

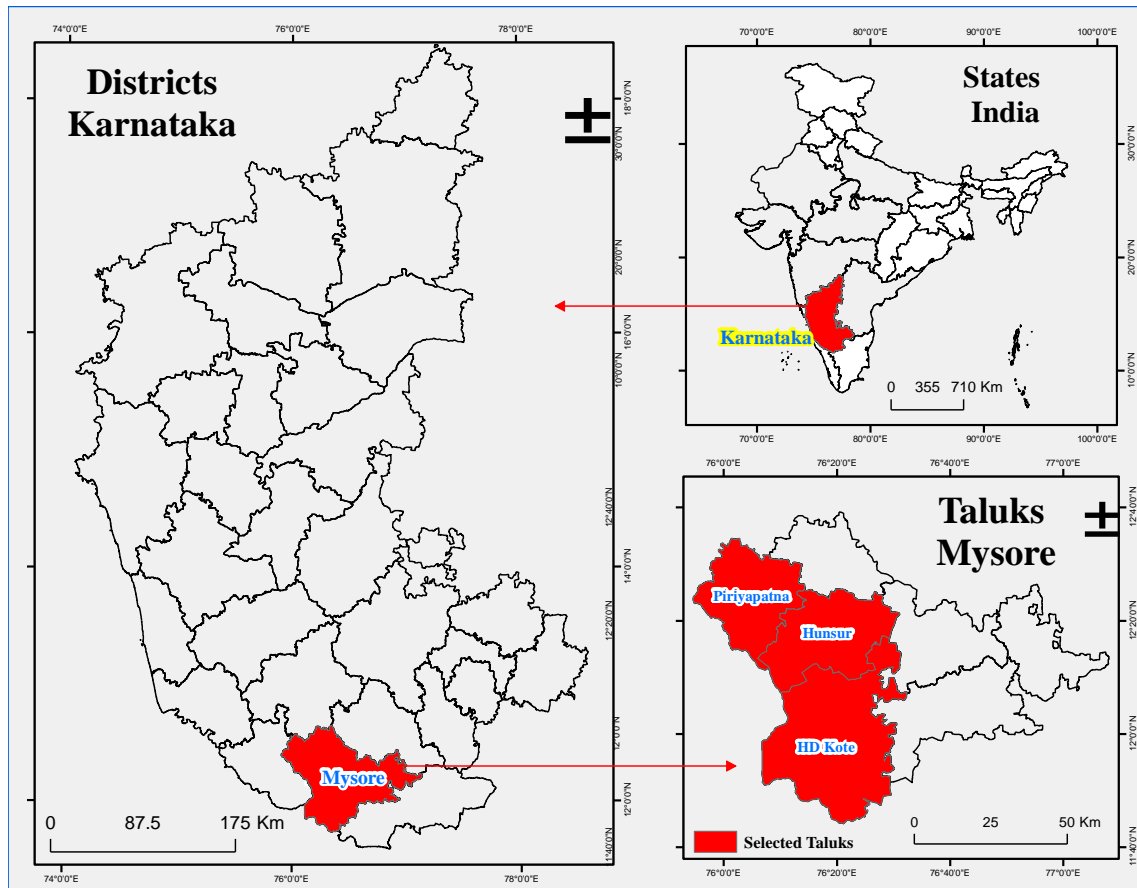


Fig: 1 Study Area

METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of study, three taluks in Mysuru district such as Priyapatna, Hunsur and H D Kote were selected. The necessary data was collected through primary survey using well-structured questionnaire. Totally, 500 households were surveyed to obtain the information about household experience and determination of food security. To understand the experience of food security among the tribal households, the related questions were raised such as, a) household cannot afford balance meals, b) food purchased does not

last and no money for more food, c) household cuts meal size, d) household skips meal and e) one or more family members hungry all the day or night.

Further, to determine the food security the related questions raised were; a) Entitlement provide by FPS is not enough, b) Only a single meal in a day, c) Household eats meals without vegetables, d) Cereals, Pulses, and Vegetable are not always available, e) Members get only less than the amount satiating hunger, with two options as YES or NO in the questionnaire. Based on the response, the food security was

measured among the five questions if “Yes” was mentioned for more than 4 questions it was considered as food insecure, “Yes” for three questions was considered as chronically food insecure and “Yes” to two questions or below than that was considered as mildly insecure and “No” to all the questions was considered as food secured.

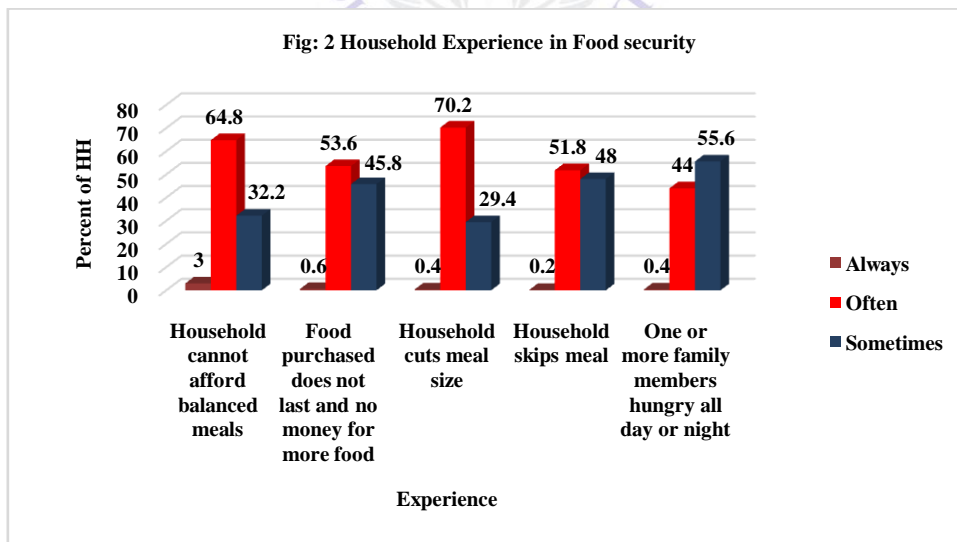
EXPERIENCE OF FOOD SECURITY

The result obtained from the households represent that among the 500 families, “for the question “Household cannot afford balanced meals”, 15 (3 %) households represented always, 324 (64.8 %) families represented often and 161 (32.2 %) households represented sometimes. The question “Food purchased does not last and

no money for more food”, 3 (0.6%) households represented always, 268 (53.6 %) households stated often and 229 (45.8 %) represented sometimes. Then for the question “Household cuts meal size”, 2 (0.4 %) households revealed always, 351 (70.2 %) represented often and 147 (29.4 %) stated sometimes. Further, for the question “Household skips meal”, 1 (0.2 %) household represented always, 259 (51.8 %) represented often and 240 (48 %) revealed sometimes. Then for the question “One or more family members hungry all day or night”, 2 (0.4 %) households represented always, 220 (44 %) represented often and 278 (55.6 %) represented sometimes (Table:1 and Fig:2).

Experience	Always	Often	Sometimes	Total
Household cannot afford balanced meals	15 (3)	324 (64.8)	161 (32.2)	500 (100)
Food purchased does not last and no money for more food	3 (0.6)	268 (53.6)	229 (45.8)	500 (100)
Household cuts meal size	2 (0.4)	351 (70.2)	147 (29.4)	500 (100)
Household skips meal	1 (0.2)	259 (51.8)	240 (48)	500 (100)
One or more family members hungry all day or night	2 (0.4)	220 (44)	278 (55.6)	500 (100)

Source: Primary Survey – 2015



From the Table:1 it is visible that, more than 50 percent of households represented often for all the first four questions and more than 40 percent of household represented often for last question, it clearly indicates, even though

households are not experienced always, major proportion of households’ experienced often.

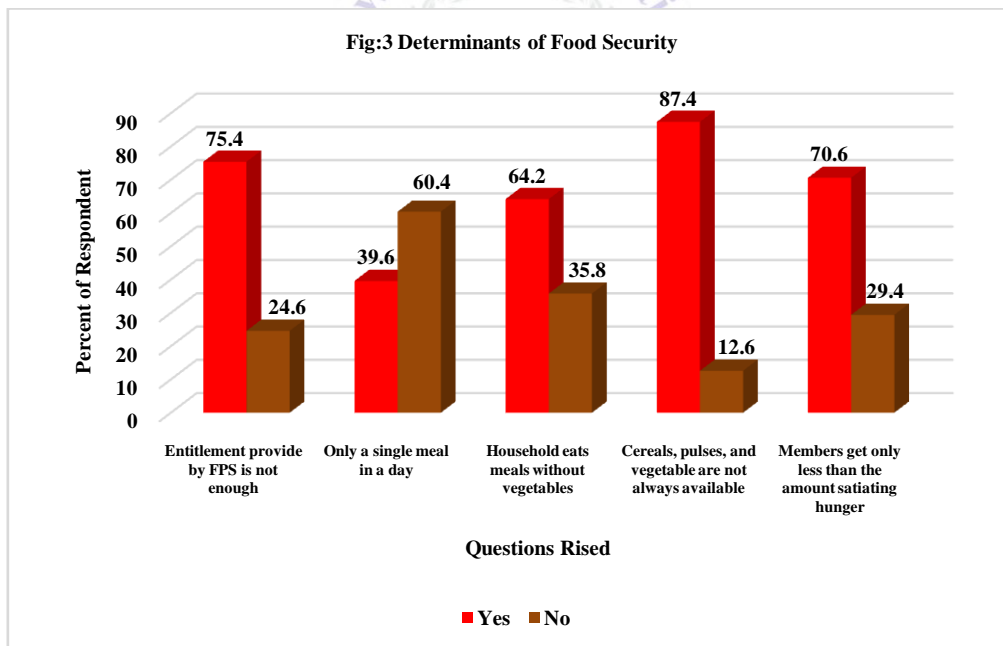
DETERMINATION OF FOOD SECURITY

As mentioned earlier, to determine the food security of households, five questions were asked with “Yes” or “No” choice, from the survey it was revealed that for the question “Entitlement provide by FPS is not enough”, 377 (75.4 %) of households represented “Yes” and 123 (24.6 %) of households represented “No”. Then for the question “Only a single meal in a day”, 198 (39.6 %) households represented “Yes” and 302 (60.4 %) of households represented “No”. Further, for the question “Household eats meals without vegetables”, 321 (64.2 %) households represented “Yes” and 179 (35.8 %) represented “No”. Then for the question “Cereals, Pulses, and Vegetable are not always available”, 437 (87.4 %) households represented “Yes” and 63 (12.6 %) represented “No”. Further, for the question “Members get only less than the amount satiating hunger”, 353 (70.6 %) households represented “Yes” and 147 (29.4 %) of households represented “No” (Table:2 and Fig: 3).

“Households eat meals without vegetables”, 321 (64.2 %) households represented “Yes” and 179 (35.8 %) represented “No”. Then for the question “Cereals, Pulses, and Vegetable are not always available”, 437 (87.4 %) households represented “Yes” and 63 (12.6 %) represented “No”. Further, for the question “Members get only less than the amount satiating hunger”, 353 (70.6 %) households represented “Yes” and 147 (29.4 %) of households represented “No” (Table:2 and Fig: 3).

Determinants	Yes	No	Total
Entitlement provide by FPS is not enough	377 (75.4)	123 (24.6)	500 (100)
Only a single meal in a day	198 (39.6)	302 (60.4)	500 (100)
Household eats meals without vegetables	321 (64.2)	179 (35.8)	500 (100)
Cereals, Pulses, and Vegetable are not always available	437 (87.4)	63 (12.6)	500 (100)
Members get only less than the amount satiating hunger	353 (70.6)	147 (29.4)	500 (100)

Source: Primary Survey - 2015



Further, the calculation of data depicts that, among the 500 families 321 (64.2 %) families stated “Yes” for four questions or more than that, which shows 64.2 % households in the study area are living with food insecure. 32 (6.4 %) of households stated “Yes” to three questions, which shows 6.4 percent of households in the study area are living with chronically

food insecure. Further, 120 (24 %) of households revealed “Yes” to at least two questions, which indicates 24 percent of households are living with mildly food insecure, finally, 27 (5.4 %) percent of households stated “No” to all the questions, which shows 5.4 percent of households are food secure.

CONCLUSION

The study conducted to assess the food security of tribes in the Mysuru district reveals that majority of households are experiencing food insecure often in their day today life; and more than half of the total households that is 64.2 percent of households are living in food insecure followed by chronic food insecure and mildly food insecure while very few households are living with full food security. The present study brings forth the poor conditions of selected tribes and warrants a need for the steps to uplift such tribes.

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